

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A polyvinyl alcohol obtained by hydrolysis of a polyvinyl ester that contains silyl group functionalized monomer units. The polyvinyl alcohol satisfies the following formula (I) and the weight fraction of the polymer molecules contained in the polyvinyl alcohol having the degree of polymerization that is more than 3 times the weight-average degree of polymerization of the whole polyvinyl alcohol molecules is at most 25 % by weight:

$$20 < P_w \times S < 460 \quad (I)$$

wherein P_w is the weight-average degree of polymerization of the polyvinyl alcohol, and S is the content (mol%) of the silyl group functionalized monomer units. The polyvinyl alcohol is readily dissolved in water without need for addition of an alkali or an acid; the aqueous solution have good viscosity stability; film formed of its aqueous solution have excellent water resistance; the binding force with inorganic substances is high; and a film mixture of the polyvinyl alcohol with an inorganic substance has excellent water resistance. The polyvinyl alcohol is favorable for coating agents for inkjet recording materials and thermal recording materials.